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# TIMES-VIRGINIAN

A LIVELY WEEKLY NEWSPAPER AT HISTORIC APPOMATTOX COURTHOUSE, VIRGINIA

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*Pamplin has a race*

## Town elections set for Tuesday

By FRANCES ABBITT

In Tuesday's municipal elections, the incumbent Appomattox mayor and town council members will run unopposed for re-election, while Pamplin has a contest.

Appomattox Mayor Ronald C. Spiggle and Council Members Richard L. Bass, Samuel E. Carter, Henry W. (Billy) Conner, Robert C. Hubbard, Raymond A. Noble and Martin L. Webb are all running unopposed for re-election to their seats on the town's governing body.

In Pamplin, incumbent Mayor Patrick F. Harrison is running for the office of Mayor unopposed. Incumbent councilmen Ralph M. Hamlett, Walter R. Lee, Jr., Thomas C. Ligon and Margaret E. Payne are seeking re-election to town council. Incumbents Woodrow Williams and Russell Covington did not file for re-election to Pamplin Town Council.

In addition to the incumbents running for town council in Pamplin, four other candidates are in the running for seats on the governing body of Pamplin.

James A. Williams, former mayor of Pamplin and local realtor, is in the running for seat in council.

"I expect to try to continue good government if I'm elected," said Williams this week. "I would like very much to see Pamplin get water and sewage system. We have been trying to make this a reality for some time and I don't think we should give up. If elected, I expect to cooperate with the mayor and town council members for the good of Pamplin," Williams added.

Jane W. Wingfield, retired from the Williams Home in Lynchburg, is also running for a seat on Pamplin Town Council.

"I am interested in the betterment of the Pamplin Community and I'll work toward that end if I'm elected. I would like to see Pamplin get a water system, I think we need that," Wingfield said.

Esther Price, employed by the Amelia Dress Co., is another candidate for Pamplin Town Council. When contacted this week Mrs. Price said, "I'm interested in keeping good government in Pamplin and I'm interested in the welfare of our community."

Erma M. Coflin, working for the Lynchburg Vending Company as cafteria manager at Stackpole Components in Farmville, is also seeking a seat on Pamplin Town council.

"I've lived here most of my life and I'm interested in doing everything I can to improve our community, I would like to see the town cleaned up; the citizens could work together to clean up things and it wouldn't be costly to the town," Coflin said.

Thomas C. Ligon, incumbent, and long-time council member, expressed interest in getting a water system for the town. "We'd like to get a water system for Pamplin. Then too, I would like to see more citizens expressing interest and ideas on what they want for the town. More citizen participation is what I think we need," Ligon said.

Another incumbent seeking re-election is Margaret E. Payne. "I would like to see Pamplin get a new town office; we really need that," said Payne. "We would like to get some water too, we have been working on that for a long time. I hope everyone will exercise their right to vote," she said.

Ralph M. Hamlett, incumbent seeking re-election to council had this to say when contacted this week, "I'd like to get a water project going. We've been working on it for approximately six years and each year we get a little closer to getting the necessary grant. I would like to see another industry in Pamplin within the next two years."

"The council we have now works closely as a group," said Hamlett. "But, any of those running will make a good council member; I believe we'll have a winning council whoever is elected," he concluded.

Walter R. Lee, Jr., incumbent, seeking re-election to a seat on council [illegible] better place in which to live.

"I am interested in the overall good of Pamplin. We need a water system for Pamplin and I believe this may be the year we get the grant. I would like to see Pamplin get other businesses too," Lee said.

The municipal elections will be held Tuesday, May 1 in Pamplin and Appomattox.

Pamplin voters will cast their vote on Tuesday at the Pamplin Firehouse and Appomattox voters will vote at the Court House.

Anyone wishing to cast an absentee ballot may do so today (April 25) or Friday, April 27 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Registrar's Office.

CHARLIE SMITH OF APPOMATTOX climbed to a height of 65 feet on an 85-foot boom when cable on a crane became entangled. Failing to untangle the cable from the ground, Smith made the climb to successfully untangle the cable. Smith, employed by Harvey's Grading Inc. was working on the Mini-Mall project on Main Street, Downtown, Lynchburg when the incident occured. (Photo by Jeff Spitzer)

For county children

## *Fingerprinting program slated*

Growing concern about young children who disappear from their homes--some never to be seen again--has prompted many communities to initiate child-fingerprinting programs to aid in identifying lost children.

Appomatox County joins the ranks of communities with such programs next month, when the Appomattox Junior Woman's Club, in conjunction with the Sherrif's Department and Appomattox County Schools will offer fingerprinting services for county families with small children.

Fingerprinting for children will be available at Appomattox Elementary School May 16-18 and at Appomattox Primary School May 14 and 15.

For pre-schoolers older than 2 and for any child above grade 6, there will be an open day for fingerprinting May 19 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Appomattox County High School.

The fingerprinting program is strictly voluntary, and a child cannot be fingerprinted without his or her parents' signed permission. Only one set of prints will be made, and the parents will receive that set, to keep in a safe-deposit box or elsewhere for use in the event that a child should disappear. The signed permission will be kept on file at the Sheriff's Department.

Sue Waddell, who is in charge of the fingerprinting program for the Junior Woman's Club, notes that "in many instances, fingerprints offer the only form of positive identification in cases of missing children."

A young child who is kidnapped, for example, can change a great deal, physically, if the child is away from his or her parents for a period of years. "A kidnapper might tell the child that his parents don't care about him or don't want him any more, and the child can be brainwashed to the point he doesn't want to be reunited with his parents, or might not even recognize them," Mrs. Waddell notes.

The fingerprints can also be useful in identifying runaways, or, in the grimmest of circumstances, in identifying the body of a dead child.

"We want to emphasize that this is a voluntary program, and that a child must have the written permission of his or her parents in order to be fingerprinted," Mrs. Waddell notes. "And children who are printed during the open session May 19 must be accompanied by parent or guardian."

The Junior Woman's Club plans to offer the fingerprinting at local day care centers and nursery schools after the public school program is complete.

All fingerprinting will be conducted by members of the Appomattox County Sherriff's Department.

## Early days of telephone in county recalled

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Times-Virginian would like to express appreciation to Mrs. Rachel Ferguson Lawson for use of notes providing facts for this article.

By FRANCES ABBITT

The telephone and electricity..... absolute necessities, couldn't do without them, now could we? Ever wonder just when and how the telephone and electricity came to Appomattox? Let's see what we can find as we go back in time.....

In 1908, in Loudon County, a couple, Martin L. (Dooley) Earman and his wife, Elizabeth were looking at the want ads. They wanted to buy some land. They didn't have a lot to spend but enought to get a "fair piece of ground." It was in an ad in a Norfolk and Western magazine that they found what they wanted.

The ad read, "Farm for sale in Appomattox County near Vera, The Keys Place, 140 acres for $55.00." There were other desirable tracts of land advertised in Appomattox county, so the Earmans headed for Appomattox.

Upon arrival, the Earmans contacted A.H. Clement, a real estate agent. They looked at a lot of property and decided on the 140 acre farm. In addition to the four-room house, there were three one-room log cabins on the farm. They had struck it rich! Not only did the Earmans benefit from moving to Appomattox......Appomattox was to greatly benefit from Earman's business endeavors.

Shortly after getting settled in their new home Earman went to the Bank of Appomattox located on Main Street to open an account. The check for $500.00 that he deposited had been issued by the Telephone Company in Loudon County.

Richard Floyd Burke was president of the bank, a civic-minded man always interested in community development and improvement. After talking with the newcomer a few minutes he wanted to know if Earman knew anything about telephones. Earman, not one to brag admitted to having a little bit of knowledge about the subject.

Back in 1908 Main Street in Appomattox was mud and during the rought winter weather it was almost impassable. At this time too, Appomattox had only three telephones. One phone was located in the general store of L.E. Smith on Main Street, another was at the Bank of Appomattox, also on Main Street, and the third was in the law office of S.L. Ferguson.

The phones were a part of a small, almost worn-out system bought from the Chesapeake and Potomac Company in Lynchburg. Operated entirely by batteries, they were on the same line. No operator said 'number please', each person with a phone was assigned a one, two or three short ring, thus enabling them to know when the call was meant for them. Each of the subscribers was able to listen in on the other conversations and keep up to date on all the news!

Appomattox was a growing town even back then. During the next year a larger exchange was purchased and Appomattox went from three to 50 phones. Since the phone business was booming Mr. and Mrs. Earman moved into Appomattox in the Appomattox Hotel, then run by Mr. and Mrs. A.H. Clement.

"Central" was located in the hotel and Mrs. Earman was operator. For many years to come, she worked in that capacity. Some of the first patrons were A.H. Clement, Mrs. Lula Hunter, J.R. Atwood's Store and residence; T.W. Moses, H.C. Babcock, C.W. Hancock, C.A. Hancock, W.M. Hancock, Miss Mary Lizzie Paris, the Brick House, home of S.L. Ferguson. A private line was constructed to Eldon Farm, the home of Congressman H.D. Flood.

The next step was the incorporation of the Appomattox Telephone Company with Flood and Earman as principle stock holders. Other stock holders were A.H. Clement, L.E. Smith, G.R. Purdum, J.R. Atwood, T.W. Moses, C.W. Hancock, S.L. Ferguson, W.M. Hancock, Robert L. Fitzbugh and others.

The rates for telephone service were $1.00 for private homes, $2.00 for businesses; and $1.00 for an extension.

Following the incorporation of the telephone company, the company agreed to pay Earman $50.00 per month and give him living quarters in the hotel. His wife served as "central" operator and was paid a salary of $15.00 a month. Soon after hiring her, the company came to the decision that her salary was much too high and they couldn't afford her! The Earman approached the company and asked that they lease the company to him for

[Continued on Page 11]

## *State tax returns due May 1*

Appomattox County Commissioner of Revenue Monte Mays reminds citizens that Tuesday, May 1 is the deadline for filing State Income Taxes for 1983. It is also the deadline for filing personal property returns.

"Please list only those vehicles that you owned as of January 1, 1984 and any other property applicable to you such as merchants inventory, machinery, tools, house trailers, boats owned as of January 1, 1984," said Mays.

The deadline for filing tax relief for the elderly is also May 1.

"Please be sure to sign State Income Tax Returns and attach W2's and any other schedules to support income and losses. Make checks payable to Ida H. Campbell, Treasurer of Appomattox County (if you owe)," Mays concluded.

## *Concord benefit Friday*

The Concord Volunteer Fire Department's annual carnival, their major fund-raising event, is scheduled for this Friday, April 27 beginning at 5 p.m. with supper.

The menu offers ham or turkey with dressing, gravy, sweet potatoes, butter beans, rolls, dessert, coffee or tea. With two meats the cost is only $4.00; one meat, $3.50 and child's plate is $2.50.

Fun for the entire family will include Dunk The Fireman, Ring The Bell, Milk Can Throw, Bingo, Parcel Post, Ring Toss, Spin The Bottle, Milk Bottle Throw, Muffin Pan Game, Tic-Tac-Toe, Lucky Duck and an auction.

Seven door prizes will be given away including a country ham. The Virginia Playmates will provide music for dancing beginning at 8:30.

Proceeds from the carnival go to the Concord Volunteer Fire Department. Tickets, $1.00 are available from any member of the Concord Volunteer Fire Department and at Businesses in Concord.

## Father Darkleaf

By CALVIN ROBINSON

The expression "Where's the Beef" swept the country, but has now been replaced with "Where's SPRING?" My porch thermometer at 7 a.m. Monday morning read 34 degrees. Sunday afternoon turned on TV and a football game was in progress. And wet. Bought some garden plants, but they are awaiting low tide before transplanting. And unusual weather is a general pattern. Farmers need to get on with plowing. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hanenkrat were telling me of a saying in Michigan that there are two seasons, July and August make up one and the rest is Winter. Ah yes, I wore two sweaters all Easter week-end. Big crowds at churches Sunday. At St. Anne's we had chairs down the aisles. No Easter Egg hunt on Martha Street but one at church was held inside. Small baskets were available and mostly were filled quickly. I found a green egg and brought it home as a souvenir. Such traffic. Saw a huge truck lumbering by and it was labeled "Precious Foods" and was from Nebraska. And another one was from Duluth. I counted a string of 74 cars and trucks rolling by before that '63 Ford could enter Rt. 460. No objection from me, and I delight in seeing Appomattox jammed with traffic.

Had a nice letter from Bro. Joe. B. Watson, Rocklin, California. Reads this column and adds "I always enjoy reading Father Darkleaf. The paper gets well read here, as I pass it on to my children living in other towns in California." In his letter he enclosed a political circular of a Tim Leslie, candidate for the State Assembly, who happens to live on "Appomattox Way", Carmichael, California. Heavens to Betsy, an Appomattox Street in far off California. Watson also adds: "By the way, Carmichael is a suburb of Sacremento, like Evergreen to Appomattox."

Big sports item. University of Virginia is having a great upsurge in athletics and last week held a big intersquad game ending Spring practice. Guess who starred? Kevin Ferguson and Jeff Miller, ex-Raider players at Appomattox High. Predictions are that Kevin Ferguson has a favored likelihood to be starting quarterback! And only a sophomore. Miller is a fine punter.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Webber, Bloomfield, New Jersey came back for a pleasant vistit. They have purchased property near Bent Creek, and will move to same. Welcome. Brought me a copy of the **Sunday Star-Ledger**, Neward, N.J. Wow, as large a paper as one ever sees. And sells for only thirty-five cents. And a special travel section was devoted to places to see in Virginia and drew the comment that Historic Appomattox was NOT mentioned. Mr. Webber's career was as an Engraver, a profession requiring great skill. I asked how they found where I lived and got the reply that had read so much in Father Darkleaf about the veteran 1963 Ford they just drove around town until they spotted it. Ah yes, small world and I hope, friendly. They live only ten miles from Union, N.J., home of our friend, Carl Evans, formerly of Appomattox.

Thanks for reading and see ya around.

## *Inspirations concert set*

THE INSPIRATIONS will return to the Appomattox County High School auditorium Friday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets to the concert are available at Dairy Queen and Appomattox Rexall Drug Store in Appomattox and at the Western Auto Store in Dillwyn. Proceeds from this concert will be used to fund activities sponsored by the Appomattox County Youth Association.

## *Lions Club set for Ladies' Night*

The Appomattox Lions Club will meet on Thursday evening, April 26 at 6:45 at the Appomattox County High School cafeteria for their annual Ladies night celebration.

The program will be a musical, presented by the Jack Tales of Ferrum College.

Members are encouraged to attend.

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**Don't forget to move your clocks ahead one hour Sunday at 2 a.m., as we enter Daylight Savings Time.**

APR